

Message Text

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UNCLAS BANGKOK 24219

DEPARTMENT PASS HEW

SE.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TBIO, SEVN,TH

SUBJ: NIH - MAHIDOL GIBBON PROJECT: CRITIQUE BY BANGKOK POST ARTICLE

1. THE BANGKOK POST FOR AUGUST 29 CARRIES AN ARTICLE SEVERELY CRITICAL OF THE PROPOSED NIH-MAHIDOL PROJECT TO ESTABLISH A COLONY FOR GIBBONS IN THAILAND WITH PROVISION FOR EXPORTING SOME OF THE ANIMALS TO THE UNITED STATES FOR BIO-MEDICAL RESEARCH. THE AUTHOR IS NOT NAMED BUT IS IDENTIFIED AS AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRIMATE PROTECTION LEAGUE AND A LONG-TIME OPPONENT OF MEDICAL RESEARCH ON PRIMATES.

2. THE ARTICLE ACCUSES NIH OF QUOTE FLAGRANT EFFORTS TO GET AROUND THE U.S. ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT UNQUOTE AND FOR QUOTE CHEAP APPROACH TO A PROJECT WHICH, IF CONSIDERED AT ALL, WOULD BE A MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR PROGRAM. UNQUOTE THE AUTHOR BELIEVES THAT THE PROPOSED PROJECT WOULD NOT END ILLEGAL TRAPPING AND HUNTING OF GIBBONS BUT ONLY PROVIDE A READY MARKET FOR THE ANIMAL.

3. COPY OF ARTICLE BEING POUCHED TO NIH.

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Message Attributes

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